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English
& Birmingham

REPORT

OF

1839-56

THE VISITING JUSTICES

OF THE

COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FORSTON, DORSET.



EPIPHANY SESSIONS, 1839.

DORCHESTER :

T. PATCH, COUNTY PRINTING OFFICE



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R E P O R T.

The Visitors have much pleasure in again reporting that the Asylum has been conducted by the Superintendent and the Matron in such a manner as to meet their approbation, both as regards the internal arrangements, and also as to the general cleanliness of the Wards and Patients, whenever they have visited the Asylum.

Since the last Report the new Cells have been used, and found fully to answer the purpose for which they were built, that of separating the noisy Patients, and preventing them from disturbing the others.

Nothing material has occurred during the last Quarter that requires to be particularly noticed.

The system of employing those Patients who are willing to work has been continued with the same beneficial effect as was noticed in the Report of the Epiphany Sessions, 1838.

Employment is found them in the same manner as before, that is,—for the Females, in doing the domestic work of the Asylum, in the Laundry, in plaiting straw, and for the Men, in making shoes for the Patients, and also in making wooden shoes or Lancashire clogs for the use of the Gaol and in working in the Garden.

The advantage of employment towards the Patients themselves, was particularly exemplified in the case of S —. H —. a melancholy Patient, who came into the Asylum in 1832 ; this person refused her food, and would sit all day doing nothing, but move her hands about. In the Summer of 1836, the Matron hearing accidentally that she had been a straw

bonnet maker, placed some straw by her side, which she took up and began to plait ; from the time she thus employed herself, an amendment took place, she gradually recovered, and was discharged Cured, and is now keeping a shop at Weymouth.

The Profits arising from the Sale of these things has been applied towards purchasing small articles of indulgence for those who work, and also in giving small sums of money to Patients on their discharge.

A Working Fund has been established in the Asylum ; the proceeds of which are as follows,—

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
By Cash received for	32	7	8	Cash paid for Mate-	19	16	
Clogs, Stockings,				rials & Indulgences			
Bonnets, &c.							
Due for Clogs,	12	6	0	Due for ditto	13	2	5
Due for Sundries, ..	3	18	10	Balance in favor of	15	14	1
				the Fund			
	<hr/> £48 12 6				<hr/> £48 12 6		

One case of suicide occurred during the year. E—. W—. a Patient who had been employed in the Kitchen and other places where she had access to scissors and knives, but never did herself any harm, contrived one day to conceal herself in the new Cells, when the doors were left open for the purpose of drying them, and when the other Patients were in the Airing Ground, and she hung herself over one of the doors with strips of a sheet which she had torn up and concealed. No blame attached to any of the Officers of the Establishment.

The Superintendent reads Prayers to the Servants and those Patients who are willing to attend, every Morning, and on Sundays the Patients attend Divine Service, which is performed by the Chaplain in the room appropriated for a Chapel, but on account of the smallness of the place which will not hold much more than *Forty*, exclusive of the

Servants, they are obliged to take it by turns, and thus they can attend at most not more than once in a fortnight, and the Patients conduct themselves with propriety and decorum.

Only one escape has taken place, that of a Male Patient, and he was retaken in a few hours ; this is particular, considering the facility that exists when the Patients are employed in the Garden where the wall is low.

The increase of the size of the Drying Room for Clothes, has been found to be of the greatest advantage, and has answered every expectation, as has also the method of heating it by steam ; indeed it was impossible when the number of Patients was so much increased from what the Asylum was originally intended to hold, to have done without it. The expenses of these improvements have been defrayed from the Contingent Fund.

In consequence of the increase of Salaries and the price of Provisions, the general expenses of the Year have exceeded the last, but it has not been found necessary to increase the rate of Maintenance, which is still at 6s. 5d. per Week.

The Asylum has been generally healthy during the Year, only Two Deaths have occurred during the Quarter, and Seven in all during the Year.

Since the last Report at Michaelmas, Five Males and Five Females have been Discharged Cured, and One Male and One Female have Died.

During the Year, Twenty-six Patients have been Admitted, Eighteen have been Discharged Cured, and Seven have Died.

Since the Opening of the Asylum there have been—

	Males.		Females.		Total.
Admitted,	113	....	135	....	248
Discharged,	46	....	54	....	100
Died,	22	....	26	....	48
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Remaining in the Asylum, 45	45	....	55	....	100
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

The Visitors think it right to observe on the above Table, the very large number of Cures which have taken place in proportion to those Admitted, being 100 in 248, and exactly one half of those who lived. The Visitors think they may thence infer the propriety of the Medical treatment adopted ; and they would also impress on Parish Officers the urgent neccessity that exists, that recent cases should be sent to the Asylum as soon as possible after the disease has shown itself, as there is thereby a much greater probability of a permanent Cure being effected, and the Patient restored to health, perhaps after a short residence in the Asylum.

C. B. WOLLASTON,

J. A. TEMPLER.

ACCOUNT OF PATIENTS EMPLOYED.

—00—

MALES.		FEMALES.	
In the Garden,	10	In the Laundry,	8
Stable,	1	In the Kitchen,	3
Tailoring,	1	Helpers in Wards,	6
Shoemaking,	3	Straw Platting,	10
Helpers in Wards,	8	Knitting, Sewing, &c ..	20
Attending Steam Boiler, 1			
Picking Flock, &c	6		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total, 30		Total, 47	
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DIETARY.

BREAKFAST.

Milk Porridge, with 6 oz. of Bread.

DINNER.

Two Days, 6 oz. of Cooked Meat, with Vegetables.

Two ditto, 1 lb. of Suet or Rice Pudding.

Two ditto, Soup, with 6 oz. of Bread.

One ditto, Bread and Cheese.

Ale with Dinner, Daily.

SUPPER.

6 oz. of Bread, and 2 oz. of Cheese with Ale.

Patients who are actively employed, extra diet.

Cost of each Patient to the Parishes, 6s. 5d. per Week.

PATIENTS DECEMBER 25th, 1838.

				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
In the Asylum 25th December, 1837,									
Admitted since,				—	—	—	46	53	99
Discharged since,				—	—	—	10	16	26
Died since,				—	—	—	56	69	125
				8	10	18			
				3	4	7			
				—	—	—	11	14	25
Remaining in the Asylum December 25th, 1838,				—	—	—	45	55	100

ADMITTED.

Cases not exceeding Six Months' duration and first attack.	Cases not exceeding Twelve Months' duration, and first attack.	Cases not exceeding Two Years' duration, and first attack.	Cases of more than Two Years' duration.	Cases of those who have had previous attacks.	Total.
54	14	11	122	47	248

DISCHARGED.

Cases cured not having been insane more than Six Months before admission.	Cases cured not having been insane more than Twelve Months before admission.	Cases cured having been insane Two Years and upwards before admission.	Cases cured having had previous attacks.	Cases not cured, but discharged as improper objects.	Total.
52	9	14	22	3	100

AGES OF PATIENTS ADMITTED, DISCHARGED & DIED.

ADMITTED.

From Ten to Twenty.	Twenty to Thirty.	Thirty to Forty.	Forty to Fifty.	Fifty to Sixty.	Sixty to Seventy.	Seventy to Eighty.	Eighty to Ninety.	Total.
8	37	59	65	41	24	12	2	248

DISCHARGED.

1	18	33	26	8	12	2	—	100
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DIED.

1	3	5	13	9	9	6	2	48
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Average Number of Patients during the Year,.....100½

Of those who have been Discharged Cured, only 7 have since been Re-admitted.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

			£.	s.	d.
Amount Received from Parishes,	-	-	1698	2	6
Received from Mr. Browne's Benefaction Fund,	135		0	0	

£1833 2 6

for the Year ending December 25th, 1838.

							£.	s.	d.
Meat, Suet, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	261	12	6
Bread,	—	—	—	—	—	—	239	13	2
Flour,	—	—	—	—	—	—	51	18	0
Butter,	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	2
Rice, Oatmeal and Pease,	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	2	0
Drugs, Surgery, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	18	2
Cheese,	—	—	—	—	—	—	66	16	9
Soap,	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	12	0
Grocery,	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	2	4
Candles,	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	8	9
Coals,	—	—	—	—	—	—	119	11	3
Hay, Straw, Corn, and Pollard,	—	—	—	—	—	—	61	11	10
Garden Labor, Seeds, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	4	1
Wine and Spirits,	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	0
Malt and Hops,	—	—	—	—	—	—	106	13	8
Brooms, Brushes, Cooperage, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	6	10
Linen, Clothing and Bedding,	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	9	0
Tin and Earthenware, Ironmongery, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	0	7
Stationary, Postage and Carriage,	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	14	9
Sundries,	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	13	8
Cow,	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	0	0
							1305	15	6
Officers' Salaries and Servants' Wages,	—	—	—	—	—	—	393	0	0
							1698	15	6
Balance paid to Contingent Fund,	—	—	—	—	—	—	134	7	0
							£1833	2	6

T. A. QUICK, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

